

Home Happenings

Arizona State Veteran
Home - Phoenix

Other special event highlights that occurred this quarter:

- July 4th: Pancake Breakfast with the Scottish American Military Society
- July 9th: ASVH Variety Show
- July 21st: Yo-yo Demonstration
- July 26th: Luau Party with Riders USA
- July 27th: Magic Show with the Sun City Elks
- August 9th: Painting with "The Mission Continues"
- August 10th: Spirit of '45 Day
- August 23rd: De Molay Casino Games
- August 31st: Hooked on Dancin'
- September 6th: Swing Mem-oires Concert
- September 17th: Diamondbacks Outing with the Sun City Elks
- September 20th: Dog Races with Cooties Pup Tent 11
- September 25th: Outing to Phoenix Boys' Choir Concert
- September 27th: Gardening with the Modern Woodman Youth Club and Celebrate Recovery

Fall 2014

How Does Our Garden Grow? With care from our veterans!



Veterans and members with volunteers from the Modern Woodman Youth Club and Celebrate Recovery

The Greenhouse and Gardens have had some big improvements over the past several months.

In the greenhouse you'll now find: new brick flooring, raised tables and newly planted pots, an automated watering system and a peg board tool rack. Outside, our planting beds have been raised to make it easier for veterans to tend to their flowers, fruits and vegetables. A BIG thank you goes to our friends Rich and Uyen who have put in

countless hours to improve the gardening experience for our veterans!

On September 27th, the Modern Woodman Youth Club and Celebrate Recovery came out and assisted veterans in replanting 40 pots with new soil and plants. Two trees were planted as well. A special thank you to Mary Rodriguez for organizing this special program.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Sun City Elks Volunteers, Veterans, and Recreation Staff attended a Diamondbacks baseball game on September 27th. Light seasonal rain didn't stop us cheering for our home team!

There were peanuts, hotdogs, and enthusiasm for the home team. The D-backs stepped up to the plate against the San

Francisco Giants in a competitive afternoon. Our ticket section was right next to the Stadium Organist Bobby Freeman who later autographed cards for us to take home.

At one point in the game, the Legends Mascots (the guys with the big heads) came up to visit the Veterans! It was a crazy

party atmosphere with Matt Williams, Randy Johnson, Luis Gonzales, and Mark Grace dancing in our section! They took extra time to take photos with us; and relax for a bit before heading back on the field.

Special thanks to the Sun City Elks for their careful attention making bright moments possible in the life of ASVH Heroes!

Veteran John Bradley advocates for change

On August 28, ASVH Veteran John Bradley was recognized for his role in helping to bring awareness about accessibility and public transportation.

Mr. Bradley had met Phoenix City Councilwoman Kate Gallego on the light rail. When the Councilwoman saw him struggling with the ticket machine, she offered to

bring the matter to the attention of Valley Metro. Although the machines were ADA compliant, it was determined that lowering them by six inches would make them much easier to use.

Together, Valley Metro and the City Council are working to make the machines more accessible to all Phoenix Residents.

They plan to lower one machine at each Light Rail Station, by six inches each. Valley Metro has already lowered the machines at two stations – one of which is located near the Phoenix VA Medical Center.

“He’s still taking hills, even if this one is only six inches high,” ADVS Director Ted Vogt quipped.



Veteran John Bradley (front) with ADVS Director Ted Vogt, Phoenix City Councilwoman Thelda Williams and Phoenix City Councilwoman Kate Gallego



Veteran James Slone and his wife, Foiest.

Veteran James Slone is honored with a Purple Heart

In July, we had the pleasure of re-presenting our friend and resident Mr. James Slone with awards and medals from his Army career. We presented in the Hall of Fame with over 25 residents and staff members present, including his wife Foiest, and his

Sister-in-Law Hester.

Mr. Slone is the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star (triple), Combat Infantryman Badge, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon w Device (1960), Expert

Badge & Mortar Bar & Rifle Bar, Sharpshooter Badge & Recoilless Rifle Bar, the Korea Defense Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. Thank you for your service James!

Veterans participate in the “Breakfast Club”

During the summer months, it is too hot to go on outings in the vans, but we still enjoy going out! Every Wednesday from June through August, veterans and members had the opportunity to participate in Breakfast Club. Each week, staff and wonderful volunteers took around 10 veterans out to breakfast at the VA Canteen. Veterans enjoyed all the wonderful food they wanted off the menu, including pastries, scrambled eggs, French toast and coffee.

We especially want to thank the Mark Hill and all of the Patriot Guard Riders for faithfully volunteering every week for Breakfast Club. They truly helped make this a special program that the veterans enjoyed all summer long.



Veterans, staff and volunteers gather before departing to the VAMC for breakfast.



Jonathan Tang (front left) and Katrina Taylor (front right) along with fellow nominees.

Employee and Manager of the Quarter

Congratulations to our Employee and Manager of the Quarter!

Jonathan Tang, CTRS - Employee of the Quarter

Jonathan serves as a Recreation Therapist with the Therapeutic Programs Department. What his colleagues had to say about Jon: "Jon has an excellent rapport with not only the Veterans at our facility but their families as well. Jon is also well liked and respected by his peers." In addition to his responsibilities as a therapist, Jon has taken the initiative to bring technology to the Veterans Home. He runs a weekly "Technology Club" where he teaches the veterans and members how to use their phones, tablets and computers. Great job Jon!

Katrina Taylor, RN - Manager of the Quarter

When receiving the award, Katrina served as Unit Manager for the D1 Neighborhood. Since then, she has stepped into the role of the Assistant Director of Nursing. Why Katrina was nominated: "Katrina dedicates herself 100% to quality care for the veterans and members at our home. She is attentive to her staff and is proactive about training her staff in order to provide better care. She always approaches problems as an opportunity to learn and make things better." She has worked at the ASVH for 5 years. Way to go Katrina!

ASVH Welcomes New Employees

The Arizona State Veteran Home welcomed 12 new staff this quarter.

Johanna Avilez, CTRS:
Recreation Therapist

Elizabeth Bitzer, RN:
Nursing

Julienne Bonne, CNA:
Nursing

Jamie Cussen, MT-BC: Ther-
apeutic Programs Manager

Kaifai Gardinor, LPN:
LPN

Monica Gaskins, MD:
Physician

Eric Hogue:
Environmental Services

Kelly Kehinde, RN:
Nursing, Unit Manager

Mark Lowe: Warehouse

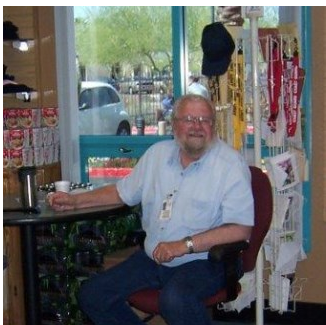
Antonio Maldonado:
Engineering

Nimo Nur, CNA: Nursing

Isaiah Omete, LPN: Nursing



Volunteer of the Quarter - Tom Gardner



ASVH Volunteer Tom Gardner working hard in the Gift Shop.

Tom Gardner is a dedicated volunteer who has spent the past 10 years at the ASVH. He spent 2 years in valet services and has spent the last 8 years running the home's Gift Shop. Tom is also a veteran. He served in the U.S. Army as a missile launcher crewman. He would fire missiles on range and once in a while would fire them in Juarez, Mexico. Tom says what he loves most about volunteering at the ASVH is his daily contact with all of the veterans. Outside of the home, Tom enjoys going to his ranch in Arkansas, participating in the Laughlin River Run for Bike Week and making sheaths for Buck 110 knives that he sells on the internet.

Thank you for your dedication to the Arizona State Veteran Home!

Coming Up in the Next Quarter

I hope you enjoyed the first edition of the ASVH "Home Happenings" Newsletter. We have much to look forward in the next quarter, with large events scheduled for Veterans Day and the approaching holiday season. In addition, with the weather cooling down our veterans will be enjoying outings in the community. I want to thank the outstanding individuals and organizations who have volunteered or made donations to the ASVH. Because of their generosity, our veterans and members are provided items which they need and are able to have special events and programs that enrich their lives. If you're interested in hosting a special event or making a donation to the ASVH, please contact me at jcussen@azdvs.gov or 602-248-1575.

Jamie Cussen, MT-BC

Therapeutic Programs Manager

Interested in volunteering for upcoming events?

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at the Arizona State Veteran Home in Phoenix, please contact our Volunteer Services Coordinator Betty Lou Gwin at bgwin@azdvs.gov or 602-248-1564.



Arizona State Veteran Home

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on current events!

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